

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 – 14 and add new claims 15 - 19 as follows:

Claims 1 – 14 (Cancelled)

15. (New) Method for splicing a target RNA molecule comprising a mutant beta-globin nucleotide sequence within a cell in culture with a separate RNA molecule comprising a wild type beta-globin nucleotide sequence, wherein a protein product of the target RNA molecule is deleterious to the cell in which it is located, and wherein the separate RNA molecule is adapted to form a target RNA molecule with the wild type beta-globin nucleotide sequence in place of mutant beta-globin nucleotide sequence when spliced with at least a part of the target RNA molecule, the method comprising:

contacting the target RNA molecule with a catalytic RNA molecule comprising the separate RNA molecule, under conditions in which at least a portion of the separate RNA molecule is spliced with at least a portion of the target RNA molecule to form the target RNA molecule with the wild type beta-globin nucleotide sequence in place of mutant beta-globin nucleotide sequence when spliced with at least a part of the target RNA molecule.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the catalytic RNA molecule is active to cleave the target RNA molecule comprising a mutant beta-globin nucleotide sequence and to splice the separate RNA molecule with the target RNA molecule comprising a mutant beta-globin nucleotide sequence.

17. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the contacting is in vitro.
18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the contacting comprises providing a vector encoding the catalytic RNA molecule, wherein the catalytic RNA molecule includes the separate RNA molecule comprising a wild-type beta-globin nucleotide sequence.
19. (Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the catalytic RNA molecule is derived from a group I or group II intron molecule.